

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class on hold  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757  
479-636-3575  
www.downtowncoc.net



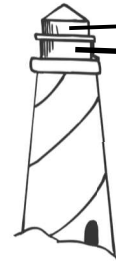
Don't just TALK about  
it – BE about it!

## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

TJ Bureson  
Scott Hale  
Joel Heiligenthal  
Jason Hill  
Chris Johnson  
Brock McKeel  
Randy Potter  
Tim Roberts  
Randy Shell



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

May 30, 2021

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle.

*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, & Mary Lou Lewis

*Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins

**SUMMER DATES** – Our **VBS** is set for July 18-22 with Chris Reeves and our **Youth Lectures** are set for July 30-31 with Paul Sheehan. Plan ahead!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – When you find yourself between a rock and a hard place, go with the Rock!

## Faith in Context – One Last Time

It's been two years since I began preaching with the Downtown congregation, nine months since I married my wonderful wife, Haley, and two weeks that I've been employed with Mercy hospital. And next week, I will begin preaching in Joplin, Missouri with the brethren that worship our God there.

The hardest thing about this all, of course, is that my preacher training with the Downtown church ends today.

So much has changed in these past two years: I've certainly changed.

Warren has changed. Our families have changed. Our elders, deacons, and members have changed, and this wonderful congregation has changed — almost all for the better.

But with so much 'new' going on in my life (and yours), it helps to remember the 'old' that has directed me faithfully as a preacher and as a Christian.

Paul, guiding the young preacher Timothy, told him, "*The goal of our instruction is love* (1 Tim 1<sup>5</sup>)." And Warren, getting through to the hard-headed William, said the >

*Faith in Context (continued)*

nature of our preaching must always be with, “*The simplicity that is in Christ* (2 Cor 11<sup>3</sup>).”

All lessons fall under the spectrum of what is easy and what is hard, but these ones come out on top as some of the most difficult to learn.

When we read that the goal of our instruction is love, we’re not left to define this love in any way we see fit (human opinions or philosophies). Rather, it is a love preached which results in the replication of the very same love that Jesus Christ showed us: a sacrificial, suffering, selfless, and other-oriented kind of love – agape.

Our love is to be the mirror image of a Christ who crucified Himself. It both shows the love of the Father toward us (John 3<sup>16</sup>), and the only acceptable love toward mankind (John 13<sup>34-35</sup>). Our godly love expresses the slavery of our own lives, for the sake of another’s soul (Mt 20<sup>28</sup>).

The lesson for Timothy? If his preaching behind and beyond the pulpit does not facilitate this end result of both knowing the sacrificial love of Jesus **and** the execution of this sacrifice in the Christian’s own life, then he has failed to accomplish the goal of his instruction.

And the lesson for the Corinthians about the simplicity that is in Christ? The lesson for me, from Warren? That we do not convolute, yet again, the preaching of a crucified Christ.

When Paul wrote that line in the second letter to the Corinthians, it was simply another way of saying what he said back in the first letter, which is, “*I came to you, not with superiority of speech, but with nothing except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified* (1 Cor 2<sup>1-2</sup>),” and anything else is vain, as Paul says...

You may think this article is only directed to preachers of the Word,

*Faith in Context (continued)*

but let us not forget that we are all evangelists proclaiming the salvation of God and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (1 Pet 2<sup>9</sup>).

Our goal is to paint the vivid picture of a crucified Christ in **all** that we do. Every sermon, every doctrine, every practice, every thought and every word is to be a further unpacking of ‘*Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*’ If our teaching does not reflect this, or our practices are not in line with it — throw it away and be changed by the Word of God, rather than changing it to suit our preference.

Do not short-change the gospel of our crucified Christ. Teach and know nothing but Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

**To the Downtown church –**

I love you all, and am indebted to you for the sacrifices you’ve made for me to support my preaching. It is my hope to have accomplished this goal of love in our

instruction, and to preach our Lord crucified in every sermon.

It is also my prayer to continue to do so, and not lose sight of the ultimate message of our Savior.

*May God Bless You All,*

*- WHSmith*



It is hard to put into words how encouraging it is to work with the young men who have come through our training program over the last eight years — and Will (or William, or Holland, take your pick) has been no exception. He has been a ready student, eager to learn, willing to adjust, and hyper-focused on being right with God. As his mentor, I could not have asked for more.

Our prayers will certainly be with Will and Haley in the years to come. May God bless them with long lives in His service.

*-WKing*